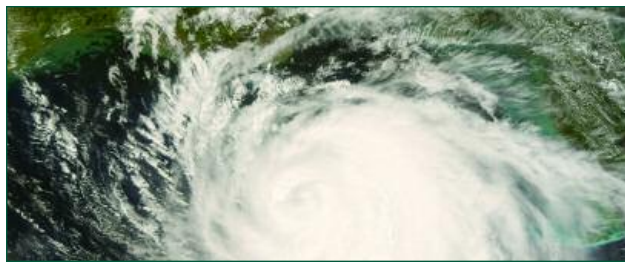


TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE FIELD NOTES

JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER ♦ AUGUST 2009



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Welcome to the General Land Office



Welcome to the summer 2009 edition of *Field Notes*, the newsletter about the state's oldest and most diverse agency—the Texas General Land Office.

A lot has happened at the GLO this year, one of the highlights being the participation of President George H.W. Bush and former Secretary of State James Baker III at an Adopt-A-Beach cleanup on the Bolivar Peninsula, which was devastated by Hurricane Ike.

You'll also find stories in this edition about everything from a unique nursing home for Texas veterans, to a wheelchair ramp giving beach access from the Galveston Seawall, to the leasing of state lands for geothermal energy production. What do these seemingly unrelated undertakings have in common? You guessed it: They're all General Land Office projects.

Another article describes a small division of a small state agency that earns big piles of cash for Texas schoolchildren. It's our Mineral Leasing Division, which is responsible for many billions of dollars flowing from oil and gas produced on state lands to the Permanent School Fund.

In this edition, you can also learn about the Voices of Veterans oral history program. Before this program began in 2004, there was no state agency that collected the memories of all Texas veterans, no matter what era they served in, be it World War I or the War on Terror.

Thanks for taking time to learn about the General Land Office and its hard-working people. If you have any questions, please refer to the last page where you'll find contact information for each department at the agency.

Sincerely,

Jerry Patterson
Commissioner

Nearly 7,000 Volunteers Haul 212 Tons of Trash Off Texas Beaches

A total of 6,954 volunteers—including President George H. W. Bush, former Secretary of State James Baker III and Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson—picked up more than 212 tons of trash in the 23rd Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Spring

Cleanup.

On the Bolivar Peninsula, the Adopt-A-Beach program, the Bush Clinton Coastal Recovery Fund and the Points of Light Institute joined forces to bring national attention to the peninsula.

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Galveston Seawall

**No Longer
a Barrier**

Page 3

Mineral Leasing Does

**More Than Its Share
for Public Education**

Page 4

Listening

**to
Legends**

Page 5

Need to know more? Here's the Contact Information ... *Page 8*

Volunteers Haul 212 Tons of Trash Off Texas Beaches

Continued from Page 1



President Bush and Land Commissioner Patterson greet volunteers before the cleanup.

la's ongoing recovery from Hurricane Ike.

Bush, Baker and hundreds of volunteers from Crystal Beach and the Houston area converged on Bolivar on Saturday, April 25, enjoying a fantastic morning working together on the biggest cleanup effort in Adopt-A-Beach history. On Bolivar alone, an amazing 1,277 volunteers worked together to haul more than 75 tons of trash from the streets, rights of way and beaches.

"Texans are always willing to help lend a hand for a good cause," Patterson said. "On Saturday, we proved that."

All along the Texas coast, volunteers spent the morning combing the beaches for trash. Among the more interesting items volunteers found were a live snake, a TV remote, an ice chest full of beer, a jockstrap, a pregnancy test, a mattress, a record player, a Dallas Cowboy pinky ring, beer bottles from Mexico, a turquoise toilet, bottles from Rome and Germany, a cheese slicer and candy from Mexico and China.

Most of the trash consisted of typical items left by beachgoers: cigarette butts, soda cans, beer bottles, beach toys and tires. The mix of trash has changed over the years since Adopt-A-Beach volunteers began walking the beaches. When the program started in 1986, the bulk of trash on Texas beaches washed ashore from international ships that simply dumped it overboard. Since then, data collected by Adopt-A-Beach volunteers helped pass an international shipping treaty that bans such sloppy practices and requires all oceangoing vessels to dispose of their trash responsibly while in port.



The Office of Communications team worked during the Bolivar event.

The Texas General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup is an all-volunteer effort to remove trash from Texas' shores. Coastal cleanups are held three times each year and the program's success is due to the hard work of volunteers, including local coordinators who work many unpaid hours publicizing the cleanups in coastal communities.

Texas beaches continue to receive large amounts of marine debris due to a convergence of currents in the Gulf of Mexico. Since 1986, more than 382,000 Adopt-A-Beach volunteers have picked up more than 7,300 tons of this debris, some of it originating from as far away as South America. Volunteers record data on the trash to learn more about the causes of marine debris and to help mitigate pollution along Texas' 367 miles of coastline.

The Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup is one of three all-volunteer seasonal cleanups coordinated through the Adopt-A-Beach program of the Texas General Land Office. The next coastwide cleanup will be the Fall Adopt-A-Beach effort scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2009.



President Bush meets with young volunteers from the area.

Texans who can't attend the cleanups can help keep their beaches clean by making a tax-deductible donation online at www.texasadoptabeach.org. There are several different Adopt-A-Beach sponsorship levels ranging from \$25 to \$25,000, allowing both individuals and corporations to contribute to this major cleanup effort.

Those who want to help Bolivar but could not participate in the cleanup may make a donation online to the Bush Clinton Coastal Fund by visiting its Web site at www.BushClintonCoastalFund.org.

Shell Oil Company was the lead cleanup sponsor for 2009. Other statewide sponsors were Flint Hills Resources Community Action Council, Johnson Controls, Newfield Foundation, Halliburton, AkzoNobel Surface Chemistry LLC, HNTB, Tetra Technologies, Beaumont Coca-Cola Bottling Company, ESPEY Consultants, Inc., Grainger, and McCoy's Building Supply.

To learn more about items collected at the cleanup, and for information on the health of the Texas coast, visit the Adopt-A-Beach program Web site at www.texasadoptabeach.org, or contact the Texas General Land Office at 1-877-TXCOAST (1-877-892-6278).

Galveston Seawall No Longer a Barrier

The beaches in front of the Galveston Seawall are now fully accessible, announced Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office. Patterson cut the ribbon on the Seawall's first wheelchair access ramp in late March.

The ramp, located at Seawall Boulevard and 57th, across from the Galveston Island Convention Center, offers the first access point for the mobility impaired along the 10-mile-long seawall since it was built in 1902.

"The Galveston Seawall won't be a barrier to the disabled anymore," Patterson said. "Everyone should be able to enjoy a day at one of the best beaches in Texas."

Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas, Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough and other elected officials from the city, county and Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees joined Patterson to dedicate the new ramp. The city of Galveston, Galveston County and the Galveston Parks Board partnered with the Land Office on the beach access ramp.

Brent Novelli, the director of the Turning Point Gulf Coast Chapter's 12th Annual Drum Fishing Tournament—an annual fishing tournament for disabled sportsmen—was the first to roll down the ramp to the beach.



Brent Novelli was the first to roll down the ramp to the beach.



Commissioner Jerry Patterson talks to a local resident at the March dedication of the Galveston Seawall's first wheelchair access ramp.

Longtime Galveston resident Margaret C. Barno welcomed news of the project. Barno can see the beach from her home, but hasn't been able to visit since having to rely on an electric scooter.

"This is fantastic news," Barno said. "I can't wait to go to the beach again."

Construction on the \$431,322 Coastal Management Program project began in June 2008. After several delays caused by storms, including Hurricane Ike, and other challenges beyond the GLO's control, construction was completed in March 2009. During construction, extra care was taken to avoid possible nesting sea turtles. Graeber, Simmons and Cowan Architects, in conjunction with C Faulkner Engineering, both located in Austin, handled the design and engineering for the project.

The completed ramp stretches 20 feet from the seawall structure with two 66-foot-long switchback ramps extending to the beach surface.

Constructed after the great hurricane of 1900, in which more than 6,000 Texans died, the Galveston Seawall is a protective barrier that's about 17 feet high and 16 feet thick at its base. The GLO recently completed a massive beach restoration along the seawall to replace sand washed away by Hurricane Ike. Beach sand protects the seawall from being undercut by eroding wave action.

About Commissioner Jerry Patterson

On November 7, 2006, Jerry Patterson was re-elected as the 27th Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office. Born in Houston, Texas on November 15, 1946, Jerry Patterson has dedicated his life to public service. Graduating from Texas A&M, Class of 1969 and receiving his commission in the United States Marine Corps, Patterson volunteered for duty in Vietnam in 1972 and was later designated as a Naval Flight Officer and served in Marine fighter squadrons until his retirement from the Marine Corps Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1993.

Five consecutive generations of Patterson's family have served our nation in time of war. Patterson is a life member of the VFW, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America. As state senator for District 11 (Harris, Galveston, Brazoria), Patterson's major

legislative successes include passage of the historic concealed handgun law, a constitutional amendment allowing home equity lending, the state coastal management plan and the creation of the Texas State Veterans Home Program. A tireless advocate for his fellow veterans, he chaired the first Veterans Affairs committee in the Texas Senate and hosted the first POW/MIA day at the Texas Capitol.

Jerry resides in Austin and has four children, twins Samantha and Cole, born in 2004, Emily and Travis. His daughter Emily is an attorney working in Kosovo for an agency funded by the U.S. State Department. His son Travis is a graduate of Texas A&M, where he was commissioned as a Marine Lieutenant. He recently returned from serving his 2nd tour of duty in Iraq as a U.S. Marine attack helicopter pilot.

Mineral Leasing Does More Than its Share for Public Education

A little more than a year ago, oil companies were planning very expensive projects based on oil prices projected to reach \$180 a barrel.

"Now they're afraid to spend money on them," said Robert Hatter, Director of Mineral Leasing since 1993. The 21-year veteran of the GLO has seen the same boom or bust cycle in the oil patch more than once. "This happens all the time," he said. "In 1987, oil went down to \$9 a barrel."

Crude oil may have peaked in Texas in 1973, but total mineral lease revenues from Permanent School Fund lands stands at roughly \$2.8 billion, earned from 1922 to the present. "The easy stuff has been found, so a lot of companies have turned to unconventional sources like shale," Hatter said.

Mineral Leasing, a division of the Energy Resources Division, is responsible for evaluating, permitting, leasing, and monitoring the oil, gas and other minerals owned by the PSF, as well as other minerals owned by the state. "In a nutshell, our job is to ensure contract compliance," Hatter said.

Mineral Leasing makes sure lease terms represent market rates or higher and monitors lease activity to ensure contractual compliance. Other revenue sources collected by Mineral Leasing include bonuses paid for leasing state lands, rentals, permit fees, and filing fees.

The 26-member staff provides lease administration and petroleum engineering and geology expertise. Field inspectors for Mineral Leasing earn their keep by determining the actual volume produced on PSF oil and gas leases. This group alone has found more than \$7 million in additional PSF revenue in this decade.

Mineral Leasing has earned about \$16.4 million in the last 12 months from lease sales of State Fee Lands. These cover 5.8 million acres, primarily submerged land in the Gulf of Mexico, bays and rivers. State Fee Lands are leased at quarterly sealed bid lease sales. The royalty is variable, ranging from 20-25 percent, depending on when production begins.

Interested parties may nominate State Fee tracts for lease sales. Mineral Leasing reviews nominations to determine if the tracts are available for lease and sets recommended minimum terms. The School Land Board approves the terms for tracts to be offered and a notice for bids is distributed. Lands owned by state agencies, such as the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, are leased in the same manner as State Fee Lands.

"Over the last three to four years, we've had a huge increase in leasing," Hatter said. "Prices were increasing for a while. As prices dropped and the ability to borrow money declined, many projects were dropped by oil companies."

One recent project that's paying off big time is the High Island gas field in state waters off Jefferson County, which earns \$3 million a month for the PSF. Active play on conventional reservoirs in South Texas is also earning money for the school fund.

But as conventional sources become more expensive to develop, there's been a shift to unconventional reservoirs, such as shale. Shale has to be fractured to extract the natural gas it contains. Fluids such as brine or fresh water are pumped at extremely high pressure to crack the rock and increase its permeability.

One promising development is the Barnett Shale play in 17 Texas counties, including Reeves and Pecos counties in Far West

Texas, where the PSF is a major property owner. This geological formation is thought by some geologists to be the largest upland gas field in the nation, with estimates ranging from 2.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas to 30 trillion cubic feet.

Ever deeper wells are another sign that the easy stuff has already been found. Shell Oil recently drilled a 27,000-foot deep well in state waters but didn't find enough hydrocarbons to make it profitable.

Dr. Peter Boone, Senior Geoscientist for Mineral Leasing, said a consortium of 15 companies paid for a four-year study looking for gas in the Deep Continental Shelf. The project ranged from the Galveston Bay to Baffin Bay, researching depths from 15,000-30,000 feet.

Mineral Leasing also makes sure that state tracts are "pooled" fairly. Just because oil and gas reservoirs usually extend beneath more than one property doesn't mean all the property owners are entitled to a fair share of production. Without a pooling agreement in place, a well or wells on one property can secure almost all the profit from a reservoir.

"Pooling agreements are more efficient for everyone," Hatter said. "You can use fewer wells to pump the oil and everyone shares in the profit."

An often overlooked duty of Hatter's team is handling hard mineral leases on PSF lands. Recently, activity has picked up in molybdenum and sulphur leases, as well as sand and gravel, rhyolite, talc, bentonite, zeolite, crushed limestone, granite and marble.

On the other end of the spectrum, Mineral Leasing has begun researching ways to capitalize upon recent legislation concerning carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration. CO₂ sequestration is a process by which man-made (anthropogenic) CO₂ from sources such as an electricity generation plant is injected into a saline geologic formation for permanent storage underground rather than being released into the atmosphere. A focus group consisting of the GLO, the Bureau of Economic Geology, the Railroad Commission and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality is being formed in an effort to analyze the viability of utilizing sites in state waters.

Mineral Leasing does many other things that help earn money for the state's schoolchildren. It inspects wells and production facilities, maintains lease maps, updates lease databases, processes assignments/division orders, monitors drainage, issues seismic permits, and reviews leases for termination.

Clearly, Mineral Leasing has an effect on public education far exceeding the size of its staff, and that's good news for Texas schoolchildren.



Robert Hatter.

Listening to Legends

As a retired Marine and avid history buff, Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson has always valued veterans' stories of honor and bravery. So when World War II veterans started passing away in growing numbers, Patterson felt compelled to preserve their stories for future generations. The result was the Texas Veterans Land Board Voices of Veterans oral history program, which records the memories of any Texan who served at any time, from World War I, to the War on Terror.

"Perhaps the best part is that it's completely free for the veterans," said James Crabtree, the Voices of Veterans Coordinator. "We send them copies of the interviews on disk as well as a complete transcript. The veterans often call and ask for more copies for their grandkids."

Crabtree, also a Marine, spends much of his time locating Texas veterans, mainly those who served during World War II. Once he

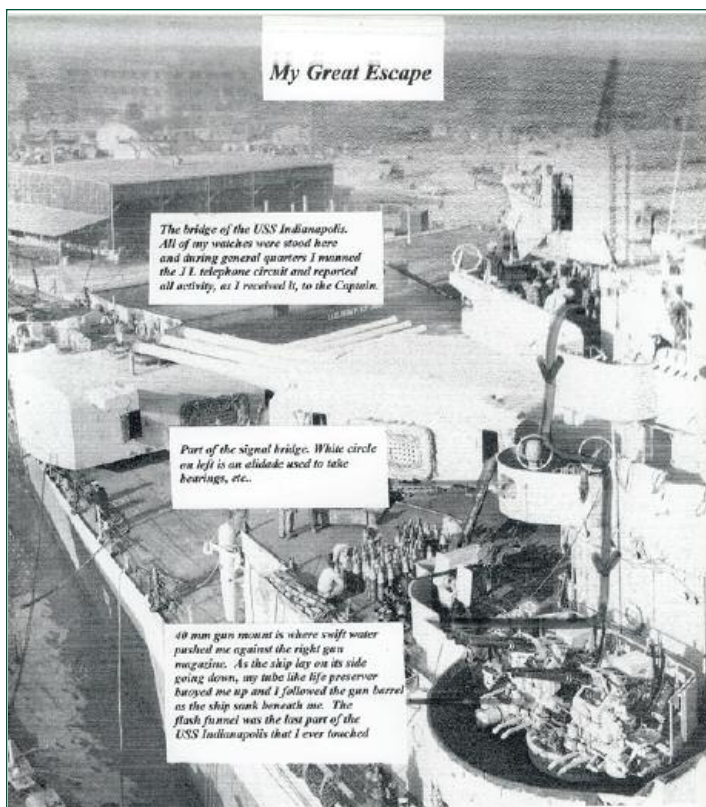


A memorial service for crew members of the USS Indianapolis killed in a kamikaze attack prior to its sinking.

finds a veteran willing to share his or her story, he records an in-depth interview. The questions are often open-ended, allowing the veteran

to disclose the human and emotional aspects of war. Voices of Veterans focuses on personal stories seldom found in history books.

Sometimes, veterans open up more to Crabtree than they ever have with their own families. Family members often call to thank him for bringing these memories to light.



While he finds it impossible to choose a favorite, one of the more memorable interviews Crabtree has conducted involved two sailors who survived the sinking of the USS Indianapolis, a heavy cruiser attacked by a Japanese submarine and sunk in the Philippine Sea on July 30, 1945. The initial survivors, about 900 out of 1,196 men, floated in the shark-infested waters with no food or clean water. After four days, only 316 remained alive.

"These two men watched their fellow crew members die from the (shark) attacks as well as from dehydration, burns, drowning, and even saw several of the men go crazy and swim away to never be seen again," Crabtree said. "The way they endured that ordeal was inspiring. I had chills just listening to their accounts."

Crabtree said Voices of Veterans is essential for maintaining strong veterans communities in Texas.

"The program shows vets that we, as a state, honor and value their service to this country," Crabtree said. "As a veteran I know how much it can mean to know that your service meant something and is honored by people you don't even know. Our program lets these veterans know that Texas salutes them for their service and sacrifice and that we will record their words for future generations so that we never forget what they have done."



Glenn Morgan, left, poses with shipmates from the USS Indianapolis. Morgan survived the sinking and gave a memorable interview.

For more information on getting involved with Voices of Veterans, call the General Land Office at 1-800-252-VETS or e-mail James Crabtree at james.crabtree@glo.state.tx.us.

Smith County Approved for One-of-a-Kind Texas State Veterans Home

Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board, joined state Representative Tommy Merritt in late April to announce Smith County will soon be home to a cutting-edge, long-term care facility for Texas veterans.

"This veterans home embodies a revolutionary approach to long-term care that I'm proud to be able to bring to Texas veterans," Patterson said. "We're



A conceptual drawing of the planned community building.



A preliminary site plan.

bringing the very best to Tyler. The Texas Veterans Land Board has now built seven of the finest long-term care facilities in Texas, but this home will be a cut above."

The new Texas State Veterans Home will have a big impact, said Merritt, a strong advocate for locating a long-term care facility for veterans in northeast Texas.

"I commend Commissioner Jerry Patterson and the Veterans Land Board for their tireless efforts to work with me and legislators in northeast Texas and local officials to place a Texas State Veterans Home in the area," Merritt said. "This is a tremendous benefit for the region and exemplifies the advantages of working together as a region. However, I am most appreciative of having the facility located in my district."



A preliminary floor plan of a residents cottage.

Unlike previous Texas State Veterans Homes, the Smith County home will consist of 10 cottages and one common building. The design approach for each cottage focuses on drawing residents into social

connection by mixing the best communal aspects of a home while still maintaining privacy and independence for residents.

An open kitchen, dining room and large table are at the heart of each of the 10 cottages. Family-style meals will be served at the table and residents can enjoy each other's company afterward in a large living room with a fireplace. This hearth, or communal heart of the home, is what sets this Texas State Veterans Home apart from any other long-term care facility in Texas.

"The kitchen is the heart of any home, and the new Texas State Veterans Home we're going to build in Smith County takes that into account," said Patterson after the Texas Veterans Land Board voted unanimously to approve the project. "Instead of one large, hospital-like facility, this home will consist of a cluster of small cottages built to draw residents into family-like social connections around the dinner table."

A total of 10 private rooms, each with its own bathroom, will flank the hearth. Each cottage will be set up as a "non-lift" facility, where overhead tracks with slings in each resident's room will provide safe transport of non-ambulatory residents from bed to bath.

"If this sounds like a Cadillac of a long-term care facility, it's because it will be," Patterson said. "Texas veterans deserve nothing less."

The newest Texas State Veterans Home will be built on 20 acres donated by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. The donated land is just north of the Health Science Center, along the west side of Highway 155, just south of County Road 334.

"Our campus is very excited to work with the Texas Veterans Land Board in bringing this advanced facility to Texas," said Dr. Kirk Calhoun, President of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. "This will complement the Health Science Center's rural geriatric and community health activities in the region."

The home will be built with a grant of about \$12 million from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, with the remaining 35 percent paid for by the Texas Veterans Land Board.

The new Texas State Veterans Home will join seven others across the state in Amarillo, Big Spring, Bonham, El Paso, Floresville, McAllen and Temple.

Texas State Veterans Homes offer a broad spectrum of health care services, comprehensive rehabilitation programs, special diets, recreational activities, social services, libraries, and certified, secured Alzheimer's units, each with its own secured outdoor courtyard.

For additional information on Texas State Veterans Homes and special home, land and home improvement loans for Texas veterans, call 800-252-VETS (800-252-8387) or visit our Web site at www.texasveterans.com

GLO Gets Into “Hot” Water

The Texas General Land Office has long been a pioneer for renewable energy that not only powers the Texas economy, but also brings essential funds to public schools.

Since Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson took office in 2003, the GLO has been a progressive force in wind, solar and geothermal energy production in Texas. Patterson opened a new era in 2007 when the School Land Board awarded the state's first geothermal lease, which went to Nevada-based geothermal industry leader Ormat.

“We’re trying to break new ground in Texas,” said Dwain Rogers, the GLO’s Deputy Commissioner for Renewable Energy. “Geothermal energy produced on state lands could help to diversify Texas’ energy portfolio while earning money for public education.”

Earlier this year, the GLO held another sealed bid for geothermal leases, with tracts located in Galveston, Matagorda and Nueces counties and in the Gulf of Mexico. These leases will earn the state’s Permanent School Fund (PSF) \$257,516 this year and \$386,275 a year after that until energy production begins.

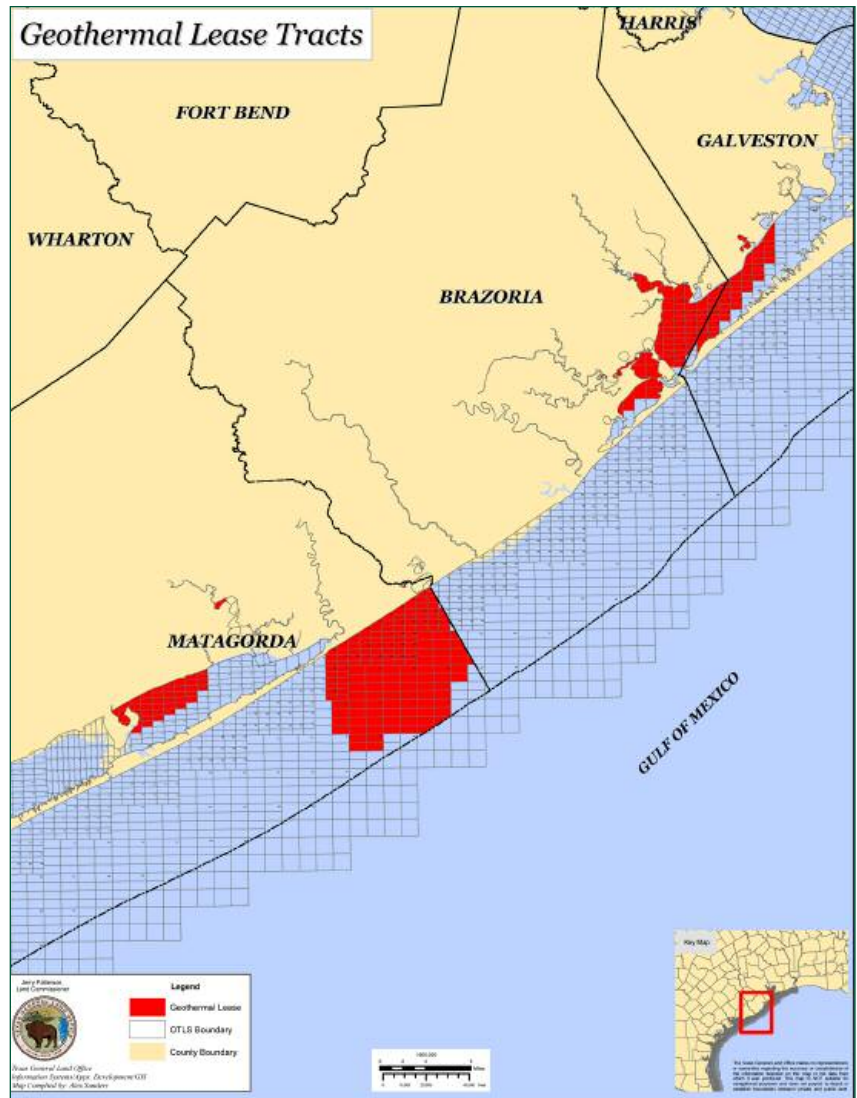
“These tracts are near Houston and Corpus Christi,” Rogers said. “You don’t have to build a lot of new transmission lines to deliver the power to those cities.”

Geothermal energy is heat energy from the earth’s molten interior. Heat can be brought to the surface from movements in the Earth’s crust or by deep circulation of groundwater, which forms reservoirs of hot water under pressure.

Texas may not have quite the geothermal potential of hot spots like Hawaii or California, but with new technologies like binary power plants, Texas’ medium-heat geothermal potential can be maximized.

“Unlike other renewable energy sources, geothermal plants can produce power almost around the clock, on demand,” Rogers said. “The binary technology that will be used in this project has been deployed in the western United States and has proven feasible.”

Binary power plants take hot water from an underground reservoir and use it to heat a secondary fluid with a lower boiling point. The resulting vapors can drive a turbine and create electricity, which can be sent to the power grid and used to power homes, businesses or industry.



Like its oil and gas leases, the GLO makes money from royalties, or a percentage of the energy production, from the geothermal leases. All proceeds from lease sales, as well as a percentage of proceeds from energy produced from them, goes to the state’s Permanent School Fund, which helps pay for public education and offsets local property taxes.

“It’s another tool in the tool kit as Texas seeks to diversify its energy resources, and another revenue stream for our school kids,” Rogers said.

Did you know ...

... that in the mural of Stephen F. Austin in the lobby of the GLO headquarters building, Austin holds the Registro, the book in which he personally copied the land titles of his Old Three Hundred settlers? The actual Registro is only steps away from the mural in the General Land Office Archives.

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Agency Newsletters

Veterans Voice

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/vlb/docs/vetvoice/VeteransVoiceSpring09.pdf>

On the Coast

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/pdf/onthecoast0409.pdf>

FAMA

http://www.glo.state.tx.us/oilspill/pdfs/fama/FAMA_Spring2008.pdf

Saving Texas History

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/pdfs/newsletters/volume5/newsletter-num3-09.pdf>

Cabin Connection

http://www.glo.state.tx.us/prof_svcs/asset_inspection/ai_data/cc_05_09.pdf

Adopt-A-Beach

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/adopt-a-beach/pdf/newsletter0808.pdf>

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